

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece disposed within a chamber having a heated body disposed therein, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece at a first position within said chamber, spaced-apart from said heated body a first distance to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece and achieve thermal equilibrium between said body and said workpiece;

[establishing said pressure within said chamber to be at a predetermined level];

[placing] moving said workpiece to a second distance from said heated body **[to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece]**, with said second distance being **[less] greater** than said first distance; and

evacuating said chamber to a predetermined pressure level, with said second distance being established to minimize thermal fluctuations in said workpiece during evacuation of said chamber to said predetermined pressure level.

2. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 **[further including maintaining said workpiece in said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved]** wherein moving said workpiece further includes placing said workpiece at said second distance to minimize adiabatic thermal transfer between said heated body and said workpiece during evacuation of said chamber.

3. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 [wherein establishing said pressure further includes increasing a pressure level within] further including, before moving said workpiece, pressurizing said chamber by [filling said chamber with] introducing a gas into said chamber.

4. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein [establishing said pressure further includes decreasing a pressure level within] said chamber [by evacuating said chamber] evacuating said chamber occurs after moving said workpiece to said second position.

5. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim [1] 4 wherein [establishing] pressurizing said [pressure] chamber further includes filling said chamber with a nitrogen gas to achieve a pressure in a range of 25 to 100 Torr.

6. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said [second] first distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

7. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said first distance is greater than 0.75 inch.

8. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 [further including decreasing said pressure in] wherein evacuating said chamber further includes establishing [to establish] said predetermined pressure level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

9. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim 8 further including providing a write chamber and moving said workpiece, after **[increasing]** evacuating said **[pressure]** chamber, to said write chamber.

10. (Twice Amended) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece disposed within a chamber having a heated body disposed therein, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece at a first position within said chamber, **[spaced-apart from]** proximate to said heated body a distance;

[evacuating] establishing said chamber to be at a first pressure level;

[reducing] increasing said distance; and

evacuating, after **[reducing]** increasing said distance, said chamber to a second pressure level, less than said first pressure level to **[effectuate thermal transfer between said workpiece and said heated body while reducing]** reduce thermal variations due to evacuating said chamber to said second pressure level.

11. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 **[further including pressurizing]** wherein establishing said chamber to be at a first pressure level further includes establishing said first pressure level to be in a range of 25 to 100 Torr by filling said chamber with nitrogen **[before reducing said distance]**.

12. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein **[reducing]** placing said workpiece at a first

distance further includes **[reducing]** establishing said first distance to **[position said workpiece from said heat body]** be in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

13. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein evacuating[, **after reducing said distance,**] said chamber[,] further includes **[evacuating said chamber to establish]** establishing said second pressure level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

14. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 11 further including providing a write chamber and moving said plate, after evacuating said chamber to said second pressure level, to said write chamber.

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23. (Amended) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece and a heated body in a processing environment, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece a first distance [from said from] proximate to said heated body to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece;

establishing a pressure of said processing environment to be at a predetermined level;

placing said workpiece at a second distance [from said heated body to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece, with said second distance being less] greater than said first distance; and [maintaining said workpiece at said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved.]

evacuating, after said workpiece reaches said second distance, said processing environment to minimize adiabatic thermal transfer between said heated body and said workpiece during evacuation of said chamber.

24. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein establishing said pressure further includes [decreasing a] establishing said predetermined pressure level [within said chamber by evacuating said chamber] to be in a range of 25 to 100 Torr by filling said chamber with nitrogen.

25. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein said [second] first distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

26. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 25 wherein said placing said workpiece at said first distance further includes moving said workpiece from a position [in] greater than 0.75 inch from said heated body to said first distance, with said first distance being in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

27. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 26 wherein **[establishing]** said **[pressure]** processing environment further includes decreasing said pressure in said **[chamber]** processing environment to establish **[said pressure]** a level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

28. (Amended) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece and a heated body in a processing environment, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece a first distance from said heated body;

placing said workpiece a second distance from said heated body, with said second distance being less than said first distance and maintaining said workpiece at said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved;

[maintaining conditions in said processing environment suitable to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece; and

maintaining said workpiece at said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved.]

placing said workpiece at a third distance from said heated body, with said third distance being greater than said second distance; and

evacuating, after said workpiece reaches said third distance, said processing environment to minimize adiabatic thermal transfer between said heated body and said workpiece during evacuation of said chamber.

29. (Previously Added) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein said second distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

30. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 29 wherein **[maintaining conditions]** evacuating said processing environment further includes establishing a pressure of said processing environment to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

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